

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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OC-06 CCO-00 IO-13 /094 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1657

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 081

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTFJSIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 1

REF: BEIRUT 7187

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1. SUMMARY: SARKIS VISITS ASSAD IN DAMASCUS. LEBANESE

FRONT MEETS, APPOINTING ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE TO AL FORMIN MEETING AND APPEARING CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON FRANGIE SACKING OF KARAME. ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUE PEACE EFFORTS. NATIONAL MOVEMENT CREATES FOREIGN OFFICE. ON THE GROUND, QUIET REIGNS ON TRADITIONAL FRONTS; THERE IS LITTLE GROUND MOVEMENT AND SPORADIC BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE. SYRIANS SEEN REINFORCING IN BEKAA AND OTHER AREAS. INCROBITY IN FAR SOUTH REPORTED BY PALESTINIANS. END EIMMARY.

2. SARKIS AND SYRIA. PRESIDENT-ELECT ELIAS SARKIS MADE ONE-DAY DAMASCUS VISIT AUGUST 31, HOLDING FIVE HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD. NEITHER SIDE ISSUED STATEMENT BUT PRESS SPECULATES DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON: 1) WAYS TO END LEBANON WAR; 2) SYRO-LEBANESE RELATIONS; 3) LEBANO-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS; 4) ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS; AND 5) SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON. ON QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES, SARKIS' AIRPORT STATEMENT DESCRIBED SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON AS "POSITIVE." PRESS SPECULATES ASSAD LEFT IT UP TO SARKIS TO MAKE OWN DECISIONS ON SYRIAN PRESENCE AFTER HE TAKES OFFICE. SARKIS BELIEVED TO HAVE PORTRAYED HIS ROLE AS MEDIATOR AMONG VARIOUS PARTIES. ASSAD DID NOT OBJECT, EXCEPT TO EXCLUDE JUNBLATT FROM POSSIBLE RECONCILIATION PROCESS. SECOND SARKIS/ASSAD MEETING SAID PLANNED SOON. SARKIS DUE TO BRIEF FRANGIE SEPTEMBER 1 MN ASSAD MEETING. PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES KAMEL EL-ASSAD WILL VISIT SYRIA SEPTEMBER 3 AS SYRIANS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ORCHESTRATE PROCESS LEADING UP TO SEPTEMBER 23 PRESIDENTIAL INVESTITUTE. PRESS NAMES PARK HOTEL IN CHTAURA AS POSSIBLE SITE OF REQUISITE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MEETING TO INVEST SARKIS.

3. LEBANESE FRONT MEETS. FRANGIE, CHAMOUN, PIERRE GEMAYEL, CHARBEL KASSIS, AND DR. CHEMALI OF GUARDIANS OF THE CEDARS MET IN KFOUR AUGUST 31, AGREEING TO ASK UPCOMING AL FONMIN CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO PROBLEM OF "PALESTINIAN AGGRESSION" IN LEBANON. LEBANESE FRONT ADDED TO DIFFICULTIES OF AL FONMIN MEETING WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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DECISION TO SEND NAJIB DAHDAH TO CAIRO AS LEBANON'S REPRESENTATIVE. KARAME HAD ALREADY DELEGATED AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT MOHAMMAD SABRA. GEMAYEL REPORTED DROPPING OPPOSITION TO FRANGIE DESIRE TO SACK KARAME BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE. KFOUR FRONT APPARENTLY STILL DISAGREES OVER APPLICABILITY OF 1969 CAIRO ACCORD. GEMAYEL ISSUED STATEMENT THAT STRICT PALESTINIAN ADHERENCE TO CAIRO AGREEMENT IS BEST MEANS TO ACHIEVE

EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE APPLICATION. AUGUST 31 STATEMENT BY ISRAELI PREMITYLABIN THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT PERMIT PALESTINIAN SITUATION IN LEBANON TO REVERT TO PRE-CIVIL WAR STATUS (IN OPPOSITION TO CAIRO ACCORD) SEEN HERE AS SUPPORT OF FRANGIE-CHAMOUNIST POSITION.

4. ARAB LEAGUE. SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN AL AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES NOT HELD AUGUST 31 DUE ABSENCE IN CAIRO OF HASSAN SABRI EL-KHOLI. MEETING STILL SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 1 BETWEEN MEMBERS OF LEBANESE FRONT AND AL FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL GHONEIM. GHONEIM AUGUST 31 PRESENTED ARAFAT WITH AL PEACE PLAN. KATAEB REPRESENTATIVES ALEXANDER GEMAYEL AND JOSEPH ABOU-CHARAF MET AUGUST 31 WITH FATAH SECURITY CHIEF ALI HASSAN SALAMEH AT HOME OF SAEB SALAM TO DISCUSS AL PEACE PROPOSAL.

5. LEBANESE CHRISTIANS VISIT US. CHARLES MALIK AND FU'AD AFAM AL-BUSTANI MET AUGUST 31 WITH CAMILE CHAMOUN BEFORE LEAVING SOON FOR US FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH "LEBANESE EXPATRIATES."

6. INNOVATION ON THE LEFT. CENTRAL POLITICAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT ANNOUNCED AUGUST 31 PLANS TO ESTABLISH A "FOREIGN OFFICE" WITH BRANCHES IN PARIS, SOFIA, TRIPOLI (LIBYA), ALEXANDRIA AND LIMASSOL. BRANCHES WILL DEAL WITH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND INFORMATION AFFAIRS. COUNCIL ALSO ANNOUNCED CREATION OF A BUREAU OF FINANCE, AND A NEW SECURITY FORCES ORGANIZATION TO NUMBER 2,000 MEN. COUNCIL WELCOMED ADHERENCE OF UNSPECIFIED "NATIONAL CHRISTIAN" GROUP.

7. GROUND SITUATION IN THE NORTH. SIEGE OF TRIPOLI  
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CONTINUES WITH VOICE OF LEBANON CLAIMING FIGHTING INCCREASINGLY VIOLENT. LIMITED GROUND MOVEMENT BY CHRISTIANS REPORTED IN VICINITY OF MAJDALAYA EAST OF TRIPOLI. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS ADDITIONAL 7,000 SYRIAN TROOPS WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT HAVE ENTERED NORTH LEBANON, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION.

8. IN CENTRAL LEBANON. SYRIAN REINFORCEMENT CONTINUES IN THE BEKAA, IN THE MOUNTAIN AREAS AROUND OUYOUN ES-SIMAAAN AND NEAR JEZZINE, HOWEVER WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT THIS ANYTHING OTHER THAN REALIGNMENT OF FORCES ALREADY IN LEBANON. PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS ANTICIPATE SYRIAN ATTACKS AT BOTH JEZZINE AND OUYOUN ES-SIMAAAN AND ACCUSE SYRIANS IN BEKAA OF ARBITRARY REQUISITIONS AND ARRESTS IN RETALIATION FOR ACTS OF RESISTANCE. IN THE METN, ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE

AT BAABDATE, BROUMMANA, BEIT-MERI AND BOIS DE BOULOGNE.

9. BEIRUT AREA. CLASHES CONTINUE IN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT BUT MORATORIUM ON SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS GENERALLY HOLDS. FIGHTING ALSO IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST SUBURBS AT GALERIE SEMAAN CROSSROADS, ON HADETH-KFARCHINA AND AT SAHRAT CHOUEIFAT. PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS CLAIM SUCCESSFUL FORAY INTO AIN EL-RUMMANEH SECTOR. AMCHITE RADIO CLAIMS 400 NABAA FAMILIES WHO FLED TO BAALBEK RETURNED.

10. IN THE SOUTH. WHAT MAY BE FIRST PHALANGIST ACTIVITY IN FAR SOUTH OCCURRED AUGUST 31 IN CLASH BETWEEN RESIDENTS OF CHRISTIAN VILLAGE OF AIN EBAL, FIVE KILOMETERS FROM ISRAELI BORDER, AND PALESTINIAN GROUP. OF SEVEN KILLED, FOUR WERE PALESTINIANS. Wafa SAYS AGGRESSIVE ACTION WAS PHALANGIST INSTIGATED. Wafa ALSO CLAIMS RIGHTISTS SUPPORTED BY AUGUST 30 BOMBARDMENT OF SOUTH LEBANON VILLAGE OF HANINE BY ISRAELI ARTILLERY. WE UNDERSTAND BOMBARDMENT MAY HAVE CONTINUED AUGUST 31.  
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